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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee conducted its work by considering the items directly at its plenary meetings. The meetings of the Bureau are open to all the members of the Special Committee. The Special Committee has increasingly relied upon informal consultations, thus striving to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

2. The Chairman recommends to the Special Committee that it continue to use informal meetings to the maximum extent possible. In the meantime, the Chairman may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during the year. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chairman would like to draw the attention of the Special Committee, in particular, to operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002, in which the Special Committee was requested to finalize, before the end of 2003, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2003/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism for the period 2001-2010

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(A/56/61, annex), declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

3. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

6. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.[1]

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979, and in the light of past experience and established practice, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session[2] authorizing its Rapporteur to reformulate its decisions into draft decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend that its Rapporteur continue to follow the format of its report to the General Assembly adopted at the 2000 session of the Special Committee.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

Notes

[1] A/57/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 47.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

A. Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2003

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories (General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII), decision 37/421 and resolution 54/91)	As appropriate
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 55/146 and report of the Secretary-General (A/56/65, annex))	"
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 57/131)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 57/132)	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 57/525)	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 57/133)	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 57/134)	"
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 57/135)	"
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 57/136)	"
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly decision 57/511)	"
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 57/526)	"
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 57/137)	"
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	As a separate item

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Guam (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Saint Helena (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 57/138 A and B)	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 57/140, paras. 8 (e) and 14)	"
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 57/140, paras. 8 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 57/139)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico (A/57/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 37)	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 57/283)	"
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/2002/L.16 and Corr.1, paras. 2 and 3)	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/2002/L.16, para. 10)	"
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (article 15 of the Convention)	"

B. Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Wednesday, 12 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
March-April (4 meetings)	Organization of the forthcoming Caribbean Regional Seminar
Friday, 23 May (1 meeting)	Observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 2, 4-6 June (4 meetings)	Dissemination of information on decolonization
	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
	Question of Gibraltar
	Question of Western Sahara
Monday and Tuesday, 9 and 10 June (4 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Wednesday-Thursday and Monday, 11, 12 and 16 June (4 meetings)	Question of New Caledonia
	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands
	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
Tuesday-Thursday, 17-19 June (3 meetings)	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
	Report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar
Friday-Tuesday, 20, 23 and 24 June (3 meetings)	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration
	Report of the Special Committee: adoption of recommendations